

REMARKS

Claims 20-21 were amended to recite that the RF reader 12 and the magnetic stripe reader 30 share a common digitizer. Support for this feature can be found at page 6, lines 12-14, of the specification. The sharing of common circuitry among a plurality of readers enables the support to be as compact as claimed.

FIG. 19 of Ruppert discloses a discrete RF reader 314 and a discrete stripe reader 512. These readers do not share a common digitizer.


Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 20 & 21

20. (Amended) A data collection module, comprising:

a) a support having a parallelepiped shape measuring 1-½ inches in length, 1 inch in width, and ¾ of an inch in height;

b) a radio frequency (RF) reader supported by the support, and operative for interrogating an RF resonant element associated with a target by transmitting RF energy to the resonant element, and for reading RF data relating to the target from the interrogated element by detecting RF energy transmitted by the resonant element to generate an RF [digital] data signal;

C1 c) a magnetic stripe reader supported by the support, and operative for sensing magnetically encoded data in a stripe on a card, and for reading the encoded data to generate a magnetically encoded [digital] data signal;

d) a common digitizer shared by the RF reader and the stripe reader for digitizing the RF and magnetically encoded data signals into RF and magnetically encoded digital signals, respectively;

[d)] e) a bar code symbol reader supported by the support, and operative for reading a bar code symbol to generate a digital symbol signal; and

[e)] f) a central processing unit supported by the support, and operative for receiving and processing all the digital signals, and for outputting all the processed signals through a common output interface.

21. (Amended) A data collection terminal, comprising:

- a) a hand-held housing;
- b) a support supported by the housing and having a parallelepiped shape measuring 1-½ inches in length, 1 inch in width, and ¾ of an inch in height;
- c) a radio frequency (RF) reader supported by the support, and operative for interrogating an RF resonant element associated with a target by transmitting RF energy to the resonant element, and for reading RF data relating to the target from the interrogated element by detecting RF energy transmitted by the resonant element to generate an RF [digital] data signal;
- d) a magnetic stripe reader supported by the support, and operative for sensing magnetically encoded data in a stripe on a card, and for reading the encoded data to generate a magnetically encoded [digital] data signal;
- e) a common digitizer shared by the RF reader and the stripe reader for digitizing the RF and magnetically encoded data signals into RF and magnetically encoded digital signals, respectively;
- [e)] f) a bar code symbol reader supported by the support, and operative for reading a bar code symbol to generate a digital symbol signal; and
- [f)] g) a central processing unit supported by the support, and operative for receiving and processing all the digital signals, and for outputting all the processed signals through a common output interface.